

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

## **School Committee Meeting**

**May 17, 2006**

### **Open Session**

**Chairman Gouveia called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. A motion was made by Mr. Faria to move to Executive Session in accordance with RI General Laws, Section 42-46-5 (a) (1) Personnel, (a) (2) Litigation, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**Public Session reconvened at 7:30 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence was observed.**

**Record of Previous Meetings – A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2006 and May 2, 2006 meetings, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0.**

### **Chair's Report**

**Student Council Liaison, John Butler, presented a report.**

**Mr. Gouveia provided an update on the Superintendent Search Committee. He related that the Search Committee interviewed six candidates over three nights and three finalists were chose. Each candidate will visit East Providence and School Committee members will visit the candidate's community. After all the information is garnered, public interviews will be held; the public will be asked to provide questions. Mr. Gouveia said the School Committee will try to come up with a candidate who fits East Providence's particular situation at the present time. He felt the Search Committee should be commended. Information will be provided at a later date regarding the public interviews.**

**Mr. Gouveia related that teachers, administrators and central office administrators were committed to raising expectations and as a result Riverside and Martin Middle Schools have now been reclassified as high performing middle schools. In addition, four elementary schools have been classified as high performing: Hennessey, Kent Heights, Waddington, and Francis School. The High School was recently honored at the State House as a commended school. Some elementary schools are classified as moderately performing. Mr. Gouveia encouraged all to attend one music event; many awards have been received by the Music Department. He felt that East Providence has a lot to be proud of and there are many people to thank for it.**

**Showcase of Schools – Presentations were made by MJ Francis School and Kent Heights School.**

**Hearings - None**

**Reading of Communications – None**

**Report of Superintendent and Staff**

**FY 2006-07 Budget Reconciliation – A motion was made by Mr. Faria to accept the revised budget in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding between the School Committee and the City Council, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye, Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.**

**Personnel Recommendations**

**Retirements**

**Eileen Valentine Teacher, Grade 5 - Waddington School  
Close of 05-06 School Year**

**John Souza Custodian – Martin Middle School  
Effective 1/28/06**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

## **Resignation**

**Cathleen Medina Head Coach, Football & Competition  
Cheerleading, Sr. High School**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

## **Family & Medical Leave Act**

**Kristine Ricci Teacher, Business – Sr. High School  
Effective approx. 5/30/06**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

## **Other Educational Leave**

**Belinda Wilkerson Guidance Counselor, Sr. High School  
2006-07 School Year (Year 3)**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**Mr. Vinhateiro reported the terms of two extended employment contracts:**

**Employment contract for Dr. James Hilton, Director of Budget and Finance, which included a 2.75% increase and 10% health insurance co-pay. Motion to approve by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye, Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.**

**Employment contract for Robert Rodericks, Director of Attendance**

and Registration, which included a 2.75% increase and a 10% health insurance co-pay. Motion to approve by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye, Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.

**Facilities Report – Mr. Mutter presented the following report:**

The exterior wall at Orlo Avenue School was taken down, the foundation wall was painted, and the Earth Day participants planted flowers. New lights were installed in the gymnasiums at Waddington School and Riverside Middle School during vacation. Exterior lights were repaired at the High School and the exterior sign at the administration building has been refurbished and painted.

**Home Schooling Request – Dr. Forbes recommended approval of a request for home schooling. Motion by Mrs. Morris to approve, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye, Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.**

**Awarding of Bids**

**Apollo Roofing Silver Spring School – Roof Replacement \$203,450**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Lovett. Vote 5-0.**

**(Subject to financing being approved by the City Council)**

## **Report of Sub-Committees**

**Family Involvement Committee – Mrs. Lovett reported on the success of Earth Day activities. A final meeting of the Family Involvement Team will be held on May 31st to review accomplishments and plan for next year. A RIPIN meeting will be held on June 6th.**

**Mr. Gouveia thanked Mrs. Lovett and Mr. Medeiros for working tirelessly to promote family involvement in the schools.**

## **Unfinished Business**

**Civics Update – Dr. Forbes reported that in response to a concern brought forward by a citizen of East Providence, Mr. Charles Mello, regarding low levels of participation in city government, a meeting was held with the Principal of the High School, Mr. Edward Daft, Mr. David Shadrick, Social Studies Department Chair, Mr. Mello and Dr. Forbes to review local government instructional units in the high school curriculum. Suggestions were taken into consideration, in addition to review of the laws, etc. In addition, East Providence teachers are involved in the State Civics Standards Committee.**

## **New Business**

**School Committee Benefits (Tabled) – A motion was made by Mr. Faria to remove health care coverage from School Committee**

members' benefits, effective November 2006, seconded by Mr. Gouveia. Discussion by Mrs. Morris that all are co-paying presently and she believes that the new school committee should vote on this issue. Mr. Faria believes elected officials should not be provided with benefits. Mrs. Lovett agreed that this issue should be taken up by the new School Committee. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, nay; Mr. Medeiros, nay; Mrs. Morris, nay; Mr. Gouveia, aye. Motion failed 3-2.

Mr. Faria stated that he is looking forward to working with the City Council on the budget at fruitful, interactive sessions with the City Council. He believes this communication is crucial for the future success of the City.

### **Payment of Bills**

#### **Local Operating Bill List:**

**Warrant #000649 4/24/06 \$1,400,207.12**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Lovett. Vote 5-0.**

#### **Federal Bill List:**

**Warrant #000650 4/25/06 \$ 114,269.80**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Lovett. Vote 5-0.**

**Question and Answer Period - Mr. Bob Enos agreed that all should work together on the budget; he praised the co-pays for health insurance in the approved contracts. Mr. Gouveia explained that co-pays have been negotiated as the contract renewals come up. Mr. Enos questioned the 10% amount. Mr. Enos asked about future negotiations and the need to set the example to solve problems and to support the taxpayers.**

**A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Executive Secretary**

**David A. Medeiros, Clerk of the Committee**